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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

NSC Review Completed.

December 10, 1976

Dear Mr. Bush:

At our meeting last week, Dr. Pipes sought the Board's opinion on getting the unclassified "B" team material into the public domain. We were concerned that he did not get an adequate answer, and have therefore sent him the attached letter.

Sincerely,



Wheaton B. Byers

The Honorable George Bush
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Enclosure: Copy of Mr. Cherne's ltr
to Dr. Pipes, dtd 12/9/76

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THE WHITE HOUSE
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PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

December 9, 1976

Dear Dr. Pipes:

On behalf of the members, I want to express our deep appreciation to you, Mr. Nitze, and General Graham for meeting with us last Thursday and for the diligent effort which clearly you and your colleagues have put into the competitive analysis experiment.

While the judgment is obviously tentative pending completion of the exercise, the presentations last Thursday do seem to support the notion of competitive analysis in some form. We will continue to track the current experiment, and it may be that Bob Galvin's committee will want to meet with you again at a later date. The Board's future membership is of course uncertain, but I am hopeful that in one way or another, Bob Galvin, Johnny Foster, Edward Teller, and Bill Casey will be able to continue their work in this area.

In the course of our meeting, you noted that much of the material on which the "B" team judgments were based is unclassified, and asked for our opinion as to whether there would be any objection to publishing it. If memory serves, we agreed that nothing should be done until the experiment is over, but this was not a complete answer, nor can we give you one. Since the experiment is being conducted under the aegis of the DCI, you should solicit his judgment. ✓

Our principal concern in this case is in protecting the circumstances under which the information has been pulled together and the purposes which we hope to achieve. If outside judgments on key intelligence issues are to be sought and are to contribute to improving our national estimates, they cannot at the same time be used in any way which is publicly critical of the intelligence community. We see great merit in involving the experience and expertise found in academia and elsewhere outside the Government, but if this involvement is to be constructive, it requires a fiduciary relationship. Regardless of whether criticism of the National Intelligence Estimates is justified or unjustified,

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we cannot in this circumstance improve the estimating process by public discussion, when one of the participants is compelled to be mute.

We look forward to receiving your written comments, and regret that your meeting with us necessitated a change in your personal plans. Please do not hesitate to write if there are questions, or if I can be of help to you in any way.

Sincerely,



Leo Cherne
Chairman

Dr. Richard Pipes

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